Leptosiphon parviflorus Benth., COMMON LINANTHUS, VARIABLE LINANTHUS. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, typically unbranched below inflorescence, ± erect, 5–35 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves but most leaves absent at flowering, conspicuously puberulent and short-hirsute. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, wiry, aging reddish or purplish, with internodes increasing in length approaching canopy. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, deeply palmately dissected with (3–)5–7 lobes, sessile, with pair fused and sheathlike across node, without stipules; blade broadly ovate to semicircular in outline, 6–16(–28) mm long, lobes linear 5–13(–25) × 0.5–0.8 mm, entire, short-hairy especially on margins, with hard point at tip, 1-veined. **Inflorescence:** headlike of 1–several condensed cymes, terminal, 10–20 mm wide, 8–many-flowered, with sessile to subsessile flowers, bracteate, short-hairy; involucre of 2 bracts subtending head, opposite and fused at base, leaflike, > calyx of flowers, nonglandular short-hairy; cyme axis segments short, < 1 mm long, densely hairy mostly with stalked glandular hairs having yellowish heads; bractlet subtending flower 3-lobed (outer flowers) to unlobed (central flowers), to 10 mm long, central lobe > lateral lobes, short-hairy with glandular hairs mostly below lobes; pedicel 0–0.5 mm long, short-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial; 8–9(–11) mm across, typically protogynous; calyx 5-lobed, 6–9 mm long, short-hirsute and glandular-hairy to midpoint of lobes; tube funnel-shaped, 1.5–4 mm long, above midpoint connected by narrow to obscure, translucent membranous panels (never red-purple), often splitting during fruit development, sometimes edging reddish next to membranous panels; lobes not overlapping, equal, narrowly lanceolate, 4–5 mm long, green aging reddish, puberulent and glandular-hairy, with margin short-ciliate and slightly membranous at base, hard-pointed at tip; corolla 5-lobed, long-trumpetlike (salverform), in bud lobes overlapping but not twisted; tube threadlike, in range 11–23 × < 0.3 mm, pinkish or yellowish aging reddish, enlarged at base around nectary and ovary, short-hairy and with scattered glandular hairs, internally with a ring of short hairs from top of tube to bases of filaments; throat bell-shaped, < 1 mm long, bright yellow lacking purple at base; lobes spreading, oblong to lanceolate, 3–4.5(–6) × 1.8–3 mm, in range white often with bright yellow at base, sometimes with purplish dots at base, entire; stamens 5, fused to corolla near base of throat alternate with corolla lobes, exserted; filaments equal, slender, 2–2.5 mm long, pale yellowish green; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1–2.2 mm long (possibly = 2 forms, short and long), yellow, blunt arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen bright yellow; nectary disc surrounding base of ovary, shallowly cupped and appressed, 0.3 mm long, green; pistil 1; ovary superior, ovoid, 1–1.3 mm long, green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber packed with ovules attached to center; style exserted above corolla lobes, at anthesis ca. 5 mm long, bright yellow, 3-branched but initially twisted together, the stigmatic branches eventually ascending, linear, 1.5–4.5 mm long, elongating throughout the life of flower. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves and detaching (falling away from calyx), many-seeded, obovoid and shallowly 3-lobed, 3–4 × 1.5–1.8 mm, light tan, often top portion tinged red. **Seed:** oblong, 1.3–1.5 × 0.5–0.7 mm, tannish light brown, with several lengthwise, colorless ridges. Mid-March–mid-May.

Native. Annual occasionally found in dense local populations with grasses and native herbs in meadows and openings of coastal sage scrub (SMM and SH). *Leptosiphon parviflorus* is the correct name for plants in range that were formerly treated as *Linanthus*.
androsacus (Leptosiphon androsacus), a close relative that does not have a densely hairy calyx. When flowering at midday, the white corolla lobes of L. parviflorus radiate from the throat, and the bright yellow anthers and stigma are erect and plug the center of the flower. A bee, having a long, extremely slender proboscis, may pollinate the flower; the flower has a long, narrow corolla tube provided with nectar from the small nectary surrounding the base of the ovary.

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